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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
(Case No. 95-1408-UUU)

In the Application of:)	
)	
Sheppard et al.)	Before the Examiner:
)	Do, Pensee T.
Serial No. 10/726,337)	
)	Group Art Unit: 1641
Filed: December 2, 2003)	
)	
For: An Affinity Binding-based System)	
For Detecting Particulates in a Fluid)	

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated May 5, 2004, please enter the following amendments and consider the accompanying remarks.

Status of the claims

Claims 1-28 are pending in the application. Claims 24-26 and 28 are acknowledged by the Examiner to be patentable, if rewritten as independent claims having all the limitations of the underlying base claims. The bases for rejection of claims 1-23 and 27 have been overcome by amendment.

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.121, amendments to the claims are set forth on following pages 2-8, and Applicants' remarks set forth on following pages 9-11.